

Impact of Justice

12+

AIM | To examine the effects of not having support when a young person is involved with the law

Time | 30 - 40 Minutes

Material | Flipchart paper, markers, masking tape

What to do

Divide the group into teams of four or five people. Give each team a role card, flipchart paper and markers. Explain that they must create a body map using one of their team to create the outline. On the outside they include what they know about the person from the role card, in the head they include the thoughts the young person might have in this situation, the heart are the feelings about their situation and in the body they include the supports the young person might need, in the legs write the effect it would have on the person if they got all the support they needed.

When the body maps are finished, ask each group to read out their case study and ask if they think the person was treated fairly? Was justice done in this case? Why do all young people not get the support they need? What can happen if somebody doesn't get the support they need? What support can young people give to people around the world who face injustice or are treated unfairly?

Warm Up

Truth or Lie: Divide your group into pairs. Each person tells their partner about three things that have happened to them which were either Fair or Unfair. One of the things they say must be a lie. When both people have spoken, form a large group and go around the circle revealing the Fair/Unfair situations that they were told. After each person has spoken, the group decide which item is a lie.

fact BOX

There are at least 1 million children in the world behind bars - often in conditions which are inhumane and degrading. Many of them have not been convicted of a crime and are held for begging and loitering.

Source: Defence for Children International – Juvenile Justice

Article 40 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) states that if you are accused of breaking the law, you should receive legal help. Prison sentences for children should only be used for the most serious offences. For more information, check out the CRC at the end of this pack.

Role Cards

Mohammed el Gharani

Mohammed was arrested in Pakistan at the age of 14. He was handed over to the US military in 2002 and sent to Guantanamo Bay. During his time there he was subjected to racist abuse, physical assaults, loud music, and doused with cold water. He was also chained up overnight for 12 – 14 hours. Seven years after he entered the prison, his case was heard by a judge and the thinness of the accusations was proved, he was released the following month.

Source: Amnesty International, Ireland.

Shaun

Shaun is 17 years old, he has been released from prison and has to wear an electronic tag around his ankle. He has a curfew of 6pm and at this time his ankle tag and the tagging machine must be side by side. Shaun must have one fixed address where his tagging machine is installed. He stays with his girlfriend but they have a row and he has to leave, it's 11am and Shaun spends the day trying to find a new place to live. When he does, and gets the tagging machine installed again, he realises that he has no money to feed the electricity meter, it's past 6pm. Shaun gets arrested for breaking curfew and is sent back to prison.

Source: The Guardian Newspaper, 15 July 2009.

Mohammed Balbol

Mohammed spent 12 months in a detention centre in Israel. He was arrested for being a member of an illegal organisation and for possessing weapons. No evidence was ever given to him or his lawyers because it was said to be in a secret file. His detention was extended three times, each of these times he was given another 4 months. On his last day in detention, every 30 minutes for seven hours a prison guard told him they had not made a decision to release him, it made him nervous that his sentence would be extended again.

Source: Defence for Children International

Daniella

Daniella was in the wrong place at the wrong time. She was staying in somebody else's house. The house got raided by the police and Daniella was handcuffed while she was still in bed. Her friends were mistreated and she was strip searched. Even though she told them she had nothing to do with any crime, she was held in the cell from 11am until 4am the following day. When she was released she was simply told that there would be no further action taken against her.

Source: Y Care International

Action Idea

Get the group to create a common list of what they think young people should be entitled to when released from a detention centre or prison. Explain why you think they should get these services and send your thoughts to:

Mr. Dermot Ahern TD: Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform - Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Mr. Barry Andrews TD: Minister for Children and Youth Affairs - Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Kildare St, Dublin 2